

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049237

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, NATO, MPOL

SUBJECT:TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE

REF:A.USNATO 01820 DTG 222109Z FEB 78,
B. USNATO 01978 DTG 251106Z FEB 78.

1. WE NOTE THE IEPG PLANS DISCUSSION AT THE FEBRUARY 27
NADREP MEETING ON POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE
AD HOC GROUP UNDER THE CNAD TO ADDRESS "OBSTACLES."
THE USNADREP SHOULD INDICATE WE FEEL THIS SUBJECT CAN
BEST BE DISCUSSED AT THE DEPUTY NAD (OR EQUIVALENT)
LEVEL IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER TOPICS. FYI. WE FEEL
IT PREMATURE EITHER TO ACCEPT OR REJECT SUCH AN AD
HOC GROUP UNTIL WE HAVE HAD A MEETING AT DEPUTY NAD
LEVEL. END FYI.

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2. IN THE SAME VEIN, WE BELIEVE THE NADREPS ARE TOO
FAR REMOVED FROM POLICY DECISIONS TO BE A SUCCESSFUL
FORUM FOR INITIATING THE TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE AS
ADMIRAL MAININI PROPOSES. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE
THE MEETING THE WEEK OF MARCH 20 BE HELD IN BRUSSELS
AT DEPUTY NAD LEVEL. FYI. WE UNDERSTAND THAT
BRITISH, FRENCH, AND POSSIBLY SEVERAL OTHER IEPG

MEMBERS ARE MORE FLEXIBLE ON THIS THAN MAININI LETTER INDICATES. END FYI.

3. THE SPECIFICS PROVIDED IN ADMIRAL MAININI'S LETTER ARE HELPFUL AND WILL ASSIST OUR PREPARATION FOR THE MARCH MEETING. AT THE MEETING WE WILL PROVIDE AS MUCH CLARIFICATION AS POSSIBLE (A) ON US PROCUREMENT PRACTICES AND CONSTRAINTS AND (B) ON OUR IDEAS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.

4. WE HAVE COORDINATED WITH THE CANADIAN EMBASSY HERE ON THIS REPLY, AND ARE IN ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT. CANADIAN EMB SAID OTTAWA EARLIER HAD SENT AN INSTRUCTION WHICH ACCEPTS, IN PRINCIPLE, THE IEPG PROPOSAL FOR A NEW AD HOC GROUP TO DEAL WITH OBSTACLES; OTTAWA MAY NOW RECONSIDER.

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